



As we enter the holiday season and our community engages in all the festivities, the Branson Firefighters would like to share a few safety tips to help you have a fire-safe holiday season.

### **Holiday Meal Preparation**

Did you know cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can reduce the risk of this type of fire.

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove top and other cooking appliances.
- Stay in the home when using the oven for baking the turkey, pies and other foods. Check it frequently!
- Keep children away from kitchen appliances to avoid burns and other injuries.
- Plug all kitchen appliances like the electric knife, coffee maker, mixer and plate warmers directly into the outlet. Be careful to not allow cords to dangle where they might be in easy reach of a child
- Turkey Fryers should only be used outdoors. Be careful not to overfill fryer based on the size of the turkey.
- Stove Top Fire! Cover the pan with a lid / keep oven door closed, turn off the heat source, and call 9-1-1.

### **Holiday Decorations**

- Use only non-flammable or flame resistant decorations
- Never place wrapping paper in the fireplace. It can cause dangerous sparks and buildup in the flue.
- Artificial Christmas Trees – make sure it is flame retardant.
- Avoid using lit candles – consider battery powered candles as an alternative. If you do use candles, make sure they are in sturdy holders and place them where they cannot easily be knocked down. Never place candles on a Christmas tree and never leave the house with candles burning.

### **Holiday Lights**

- Maintain your holiday lights! Inspect them each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in insulation, broken plugs. Only use lights that listed by an approved testing laboratory. Electrical Fires are the #2 cause of home fires.
- DO NOT Overload Outlets. Read the product directions for limits on how many strands are safe, typically not more than three. Make sure timers and extension cords are used with proper rating for size, interior and or exterior used.

### **Live Christmas Trees**

- Select a tree with fresh needles that are green and hard to pull back.
- Make sure to make a fresh cut of the trunk and place in a tree stand with water.
- Keep fresh water to the tree daily and do not place it close to heat sources including the fireplace or heat vent. If excessive needles drop from the tree, it is too dry and has become a fire hazard.



**Test Your Smoke Alarms! Practice Home Fire Escape Drills! Have a Portable Fire Extinguisher in the Home!**  
**Emergency Dial 9-1-1 Follow Us on Facebook & Twitter at Branson MO Fire-Rescue**